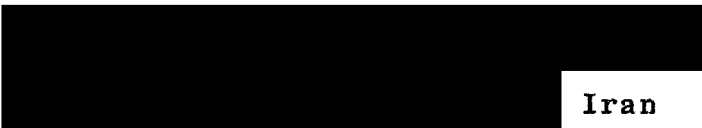


MIDDLE EAST REACTIONS TO TURKISH-PAKISTANI
DEFENSE PLANS

I. Summary Statement

- A. Middle East press reactions to Turkish-Pakistani defense talks and grant of US military aid to Pakistan generally unfavorable.
- B. Official reactions, however, varied from favorable in Iraq to hostile in India.
- C. Arab states' comment sparse due preoccupation crisis in Egypt and Syria.
- D.  Iran
interested but noncommittal.
- E. Reactions in Turkey and Pakistan enthusiastic.

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II. South Asia

A. India

- 1. Nehru's private reaction to Ambassador Allen on 24 February surprisingly mild.

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2. Speech of 1 March, however, tirade against American policy in Asia.
 - a. Rejected Eisenhower's military aid offer India as "unworthy" of US.
 - b. Announced India no longer recognizes neutrality of 32 American members UN observers team in Kashmir and their presence "improper."
3. Indian Foreign Ministry reportedly leaked story Nehru note on US observers Kashmir on way UN.
4. Foreign Office spokesman says US aid for Pakistan probably not affect India's acceptance US economic aid. Indian 1954-55 budget announced 27 February anticipates \$94,500,000 foreign aid; FOA preliminary 1954-55 program \$115,000,000.

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B. Pakistan

1. Enthusiasm nearly unanimous, emphasizing receipt American military aid rather than talks with Turkey.
2. Pakistan may be taking more careful look at Turkish agreement since US aid announced, but agreement not in jeopardy.

C. Afghanistan

1. Afghan government privately indicated desire join pact, if US guarantees Afghanistan's frontiers.
2. Publicly announced 1 March favorable view pact after long press campaign against.

III. Arab States

A. Egypt and Syria

1. Anticipatory press comments hostile, seeing talks as plot break up Arab front.
2. Now preoccupied by domestic crises.

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B. Lebanon

1. Announcements overshadowed by Egyptian and Syrian crisis; sparse comment mildly favorable.

C. Saudi Arabia

1. Disapproves agreements which would detract from Arab unity; no other comment.

D. Iraq

1. Prime Minister Jamali indicated desire join pact; announced would make alliances regardless other Arab states.

2. Press and popular opinion hostile.

IV. Others

A. Iran

1. Interested but recognizes conditions unfavorable Iranian action.

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